

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 414
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee to study home-and community-based long-term care services for the elderly created by Senate Joint Resolution No. 222 of the 100th General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the projected increase in our elderly population demands that Tennessee find better ways of managing its long-term care resources; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Health and Finance and Administration have completed a report entitled "Home-and Community-Based Long-Term Care as an Alternative to Nursing Home Care" in accordance with the directives of Senate Joint Resolution No. 58 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the One-Hundredth General Assembly wished to further analyze the feasibility of increasing the utilization of the eight (8) basic types of home-and community-based services (HCBS) as an integral part of the continuum of care for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, Senate Joint Resolution No. 222 of the 100th General Assembly created a special joint committee to study methods for increasing the availability and utilization of home-and community-based long-term care services for the elderly in a wide range of settings, and the options for allocating public resources for such services; and

WHEREAS, although the members of the special joint committee have worked assiduously at their appointed duties, the utilization and public financing of home-and

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community-based long-term care services for the elderly are extremely complex and perplexing subjects, and the committee has not yet been afforded adequate time to complete this comprehensive study; and

WHEREAS, as our society works toward a consumer-centered long-term care system for the elderly, in which choices and options are available to maintain senior citizens' independence, security, and dignity, it is imperative that the special joint committee's important mandate be continued in order to find viable solutions to the problems inherent in these issues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by Senate Joint Resolution No. 222 of the 100th General Assembly to study the availability, utilization, and public financing of home- and community-based long-term care services for the elderly is hereby continued for a period of one (1) year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall remain as constituted by Senate Joint Resolution No. 222 of the 100th General Assembly; provided, that the members thereof shall be duly elected members of the One-Hundredth General Assembly in order to retain membership on the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That vacancies on the special joint committee shall be filled by the Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies, including the Department of Health and the Tennessee Commission on Aging, shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of

such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the 1999 session of the One Hundred First General Assembly, by reporting to the House Health and Human Resources Committee, House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee and the TennCare Oversight Committee, no later than February 1, 1999, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.